

The Landsat Science team is concerned about the state of the international archive of Landsat data. This archive represents the only long term history of the state of the planet as characterized by moderate resolution imagery. Much of the archive currently resides solely in the holdings of international ground stations, perhaps 4 million scenes according to Goward et al. (2006). We believe that securing the integrity and access to these data for the scientific community and posterity should be a high priority. We would appreciate a report (this could be at our next Science team meeting in June 2007 or in other appropriate form) on our knowledge of the status of this archive and on any efforts underway or planned to ensure it is properly archived and accessible. Could you provide us with this information or suggest a more appropriate source.

Reference:

Goward, S., Arvidson, T., Williams, D., Faundeen, J., Irons, J., and Franks, S., "Historical Record of Landsat Global Coverage: Mission Operations, NSLRSDA and International Cooperator Stations", Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, Vol. 72, No. 10, pp. 1155-01169, October 2006.

Estimated IC Landsat Holdings

≥ 20 yrs IC Countries	Years Active	Holdings
Australia	27	502,304
Brazil	33	372,000
Canada	34	567,312
China	20	369,102
Europe	31	1,533,986
Indonesia	22	19,987
Japan	27	408,194
South Africa	26	97,132
Thailand	24	153,163
TOTAL		4,023,180
< 20 yrs ICs ¹		223,284
CAMPAIGN ICs ²		7,085
GRAND TOTAL		4,253,549

¹ICs active less than 20 years include: Argentina, Ecuador, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan

²ICs established solely for short-term campaign purposes include: Antarctica, Dubai, Gabon, Iran, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia.

LANDSAT

	US Archive*	monthly rate of increase
TM*	644,000 scenes	
ETM*	605,000	6000 (L-5)
MSS*	649,000	9000 (L-7)

* Data as of early 2006